

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR WISCONSIN BAY AREA COUNTIES

December 2001



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

Unadjusted Unemployment Rates Affected By Seasonal Factors and Economy in November

The area's unemployment rate in the Bay Area was influenced by two factors in November. One is the continuation of a slow economy and the other is the seasonal economic slowdown that normally occurs this time of year in northeast Wisconsin. During the month the unemployment rate for the region increased 0.6 of a percentage point to 4.5 percent from October. This was just above Wisconsin's unadjusted rate of 4.3 percent. All of the counties in the region experienced an over the month increase, which is typical for November. Only one county in the region had a decrease in the rate from last year, and that was Florence County, which declined 1.4 of a percentage point to 5.4 percent from 2000.

Typically, the month of November has the largest increase in unemployment claims and Wisconsin often leads the nation in the percent increase of weekly claims. The claims increase coincides with deer hunting season. Wisconsin seems to be affected more by this tradition than any other state. After deer hunting season, the number of unemployment claims generally drop, as they did this year until the Christmas and New Year's weeks. It seems that many companies will close down during this period rather than being open for a couple of days and then closing again. This seems to affect the manufacturing sector more than the service sector of the area's economy. The impact of this is probably greater in Wisconsin than other states, since the percent of workers involved in manufacturing is the second highest in the United States.

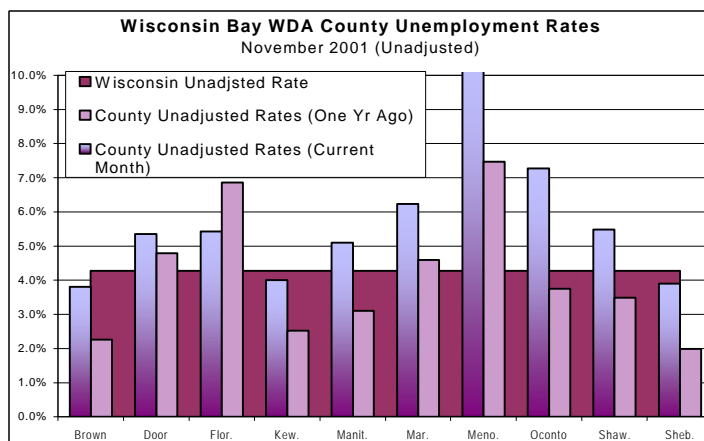
Indiana has the highest percentage of its workers involved in manufacturing in the nation.

Monthly changes in the unemployment rate in Bay Area Counties ranged from a 0.1 of a percentage point increase in Sheboygan County at 3.9 percent to 2.3 of a percentage point increase in Door County at 5.4 percent. The large increase in Door County is not unusual for this time of year as the county is highly influenced by tourism which drops off after mid to late October. The rates in all of the counties except Florence were above one year ago levels. Seven of the area counties had rates above the State of Wisconsin's unadjusted rate.

The change in the unemployment rate in Door County is reflected in the drop in the number of workers in the labor

force and the number employed. The county's labor force was down 1,300, while the number employed declined by 1,600. This is usually offset in early summer when the county's labor force and employment levels increase by 25 to 30 percent between April and June. Although employment and labor force declined over the month in Door County, the county did experience an increase in both of these measures from last November. Total employment was up by 200, and the number in the county's labor force increased 300.

The only county to experience an increase in its labor force over the month was Brown County, where the number available for work increased 900 to 144,800. This was an increase of 4,500 from last November. Five of the area's counties had decrease in their labor force levels, while four remained unchanged. A great deal of the decline in the labor force from October was due to seasonal factors, although the number was probably slightly larger than normal due to the economy.



The number of unemployed in the area rose by 2,000 from October and is up 6,400 from a year ago. Not all of the increase in the number of unemployed is due to lay offs in the area. Some of the increase is due to more workers entering the labor market, with not enough new jobs to accommodate them. Employment is up by 4,300

in the region from last November, but the number of new workers entering the labor market increased by 10,700. This results in an increase of 6,400 in the number of unemployed from last year.

Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment

Both Wisconsin and the nation have been hit hard in the number of manufacturing jobs lost over the last year. In Wisconsin, manufacturing has declined 35,200. A loss of 5.7 percent. In the Bay Area, manufacturing employment was down by 1,100 from last year. This was a decline of 1.3 percent. The same as the United States, which was also down 1.3 percent.

(Continued on page 2)

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was up in both of the metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) in the Wisconsin Bay Area. The rate in the Green Bay MSA rose 0.4 of a percentage point to 4.3 percent, and in the Sheboygan MSA it was up 0.3 of a percentage point to 4.3 percent. Both areas had unemployment rates above one year ago levels when they were at 2.6 and

2.2 percent respectively. The rate for the U. S. rose to 5.7 percent, while the rate in Wisconsin increased 0.2 of a percentage point to 4.7 percent.

For additional labor market statistics contact our website at <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi>.

Wisconsin Bay Workforce Development Area												
November 2001	Brown	Door	Florn.	Kewan.	Mantwc.	Marntt.	Menom	Oconto	Shawn.	Sheboy.	Region	Wisconsin
Civilian Labor Force*	144,800	15,200	1,700	10,900	46,600	22,200	2,200	17,000	20,000	66,900	347,400	3,049,800
Employed	139,200	14,400	1,600	10,400	44,200	20,800	2,000	15,800	18,900	64,300	331,700	2,919,500
Unemployed	5,500	800	100	400	2,400	1,400	300	1,200	1,100	2,600	15,800	130,300
Unemployment rate(%)	3.8%	5.4%	5.4%	4.0%	5.1%	6.2%	11.1%	7.3%	5.5%	3.9%	4.5%	4.3%
Total, all industries**	152,600	12,900	1,200	6,900	39,400	20,400	2,000	10,200	12,400	66,300	324,300	2,854,400
Construction & Mining	9,200	1,100	100	600	1,800	700	100	700	500	3,400	18,100	131,000
Manufacturing	30,000	2,500	300	2,200	14,400	7,000	0	3,300	2,600	26,300	88,600	579,300
Transportation & Public Util.	10,700	200	0	500	2,000	900	100	400	600	2,200	17,800	136,000
Wholesale Trade	8,600	200	0	100	1,300	700	0	100	400	2,100	13,600	137,300
Retail Trade	25,800	2,700	300	1,000	6,000	3,500	100	1,900	2,600	9,300	53,200	512,000
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	10,800	800	0	300	900	500	0	200	400	2,000	15,900	152,700
Services	39,700	3,600	100	1,200	8,400	4,500	0	1,600	2,500	14,300	76,000	783,800
Government	17,900	1,700	300	1,000	4,600	2,600	1,700	1,900	2,600	6,700	41,100	422,300
Change from previous month												
Civilian Labor Force*	900	-1,300	0	-300	-400	0	0	0	-200	-400	-1,600	600
Employed	300	-1,600	0	-300	-600	-300	0	-200	-300	-400	-3,600	-11,300
Unemployed	600	300	0	100	200	300	0	300	200	100	2,000	11,900
Unemployment rate(%)	0.4%	2.3%	0.3%	0.6%	0.5%	1.3%	1.2%	1.6%	1.0%	0.1%	0.6%	0.4%
Total, all industries**	300	-1,400	0	-100	-400	-200	0	0	0	-400	-2,400	-5,300
Construction & Mining	-100	0	0	0	-300	0	0	0	0	0	-600	-5,400
Manufacturing	-100	0	0	0	-100	0	0	0	0	-500	-700	-5,700
Transportation & Public Util.	-100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-100	-1,200
Wholesale Trade	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	-600
Retail Trade	300	-600	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	100	-200	8,200
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	100
Services	-100	-600	0	0	-100	-200	0	0	0	-100	-1,300	-4,400
Government	200	-100	0	0	100	0	0	100	0	100	300	3,700
Change from year ago												
Civilian Labor Force*	4,500	300	0	300	1,400	600	-100	900	0	400	10,700	55,300
Employed	2,200	200	100	100	400	200	-100	300	-400	0	4,300	12,300
Unemployed	2,300	100	0	200	1,000	400	100	600	400	-400	6,400	42,900
Unemployment rate(%)	1.5%	0.6%	-1.4%	1.5%	2.0%	1.6%	3.7%	3.5%	2.0%	1.9%	1.7%	1.4%
Total, all industries**	2,000	200	0	100	300	200	-100	200	-300	1,300	3,800	-16,400
Construction & Mining	600	0	0	0	-100	0	0	0	0	300	1,000	-3,500
Manufacturing	0	-100	0	100	0	-100	0	0	0	-1,000	-1,100	-35,200
Transportation & Public Util.	100	0	0	0	100	100	0	0	0	200	500	100
Wholesale Trade	800	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	900	-1,500
Retail Trade	-400	0	0	0	100	0	0	100	-100	200	-100	1,500
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	-400	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	-300	3,100
Services	1,000	100	0	0	100	200	0	0	-100	1,500	2,900	12,000
Government	300	0	0	-100	0	0	-200	100	-100	100	200	7,000
* Includes participants residing in area. ** Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers. NFWS data is benchmarked to 3/2000												

Use Wisconsin JobNet in 2002 to meet your hiring needs. JobNet listings of your openings are available to the State's largest applicant pool at all Job Centers and on the internet throughout the State of WI. Call your local Job Center for more information or look for JobNet at: <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us>

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI

Direct questions and comments to: **Richard Seidemann, Regional Labor Market Analyst**, Sheboygan County Job Center, 3620 Wilgus Avenue, Sheboygan, WI 53081 920-2085809 920-459-3845(FAX) E-mail: seider@dwd.state.wi.us